Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of classifying electronic mail based upon likelihood of spam content of said electronic mail, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in a memory at least three electronic mail directories,

assigning to each electronic mail directory ~~being assigned~~ a range of likelihood of spam content of the electronic mail, said range being between no-likelihood-of-spam-content to very-high-likelihood-of- spam-content, wherein the likelihood of spam content ranges assigned to at least two of the electronic mail directories overlap;

using a processor for grading incoming electronic mail for likelihood of spam content, the grading based on user pre-defined criteria provided by a user;

storing in a memory each of the incoming electronic mail into one of the at least three electronic mail directories whose assigned ranges of likelihood of spam content encompass the likelihood of spam content grade of the incoming electronic mail;

storing the electronic mail whose spam content grade is encompassed within the overlap range into both of the directories whose spam content ranges overlap; and

receiving from the user at a user interface a command to adjust the level of likelihood of spam content that is required for placement of emails in the electronic mail directories.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim [[2]] 1, further comprising presenting the user with an indication that the incoming electronic mail has been placed in more than one directory.

4. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim [[2]] 1, further comprising prompting the user to take an action on the incoming electronic mail that has been placed in more than one directory.

5. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the action comprises voting on the likelihood of spam content of the incoming electronic mail.

6. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising receiving new information on user behavior and re-grading the electronic mail based on the new information.

7. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 6 further comprising relocating electronic mail from one directory to another based on the re-grading.

8. (Currently amended) An e-mail system comprising:

a processor configured to:

analyze an incoming e-mail; and

assign a grade to the incoming e-mail, wherein said grade indicates a likelihood of spam content; and

a memory for storing:

a mailbox comprising an inbox into which is delivered e-mail which is addressed to an owner of the inbox; and

at least three e-mail directories, each assigned a user set range of likelihood of spam content of the electronic mail to be stored in each directory, said range being between no-likelihood-of-spam-content to very-high-likelihood-of-spam-content, wherein the likelihood of spam content ranges assigned to at least two of the electronic mail directories overlap such that an incoming e-mail whose grade is encompassed within the overlap is contained in both the overlap directories;

wherein the e-mail directories respectively comprise the incoming e-mail whose likelihood of spam content grade is encompassed within the likelihood of spam content range assigned to each of the directories.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A computer system ~~including~~ comprising a processor for processing incoming mail, the system comprising:

the processor configured to:

analyze the incoming mail; and

assign a grade to the incoming mail, wherein said grade indicates a likelihood of spam content; and

at least three incoming mail directories into which said incoming mail is assigned, each said incoming mail directory being assigned a range of likelihood of spam content of the incoming mail, into which the incoming mail is delivered according to the respective assigned ranges of likelihood of spam content, wherein the likelihood of spam content ranges assigned to at least two of the incoming mail directories overlap such that an incoming mail message whose

assigned spam grade is encompassed within the overlap is contained in both the overlap directories.

11. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for:

providing at least three electronic mail directories, each assigned a range of likelihood of spam content corresponding to incoming e-mail, wherein the likelihood of spam content ranges assigned to at least two of the electronic mail directories overlap;

grading the incoming e-mail for likelihood of spam content; and

delivering the incoming e-mail into one or more of the directories whose user-set ranges of likelihood of spam content encompasses the likelihood of spam content grade of the incoming e-mail, comprising storing the incoming e-mail whose spam content grade is encompassed within the overlap range into both of the directories whose spam content ranges overlap.

12. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising:

retrieving stored electronic mail messages;

reclassifying the stored electronic mail messages according to the grading of the incoming electronic mail messages, wherein said stored electronic mail messages and the incoming electronic mail messages contain a common criterion used in the grading; and

reassigning the stored electronic mail messages to another electronic mail directory based upon the reclassification.

13. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 12 further comprising prompting the user before the stored electronic mail messages are reassigned.

14. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the number of directories is specified by the user.

15. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising assigning a label to each directory, said label comprising a user-friendly identifier.

16. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the user-friendly identifier is selected from a group consisting of: colors, names, tasks, content, and spam levels.

17. (Previously presented) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the ranges are assigned by the user.